



2007 VLEPSC ANNUAL REPORT

Because of the very nature of law enforcement work, it is incumbent upon the law enforcement community to set, and adhere to, higher standards than what is required of them. The Virginia Law Enforcement Professional Standards Program provides the opportunity for agencies to do this through accreditation.

Since its inception in Virginia in 1996, the Virginia Law Enforcement Professional Standards Accreditation Program has assured a strong



Sheriff Charles E. Jett
*Chair, Virginia Law
Enforcement Professional
Standards Commission
Executive Board*

base of professional and contemporary standards for all participating agencies. There are 187 standards which must be met in the areas of Administration, Operations, Personnel and Training.

Thanks to the hundreds of members in our Virginia law enforcement profession who serve in various capacities in the accreditation process, citizens of the Commonwealth are afforded law enforcement services second to none.

Program Manager's Message



2007 was an exciting year for Virginia's Law-Enforcement Accreditation Program. The Program ended the year with 65 accredited agencies.

Twenty-six official on-site assessments were conducted by our roster of professional assessors that perform these inspections on a voluntary basis. The Commission and the Virginia Accreditation Center at DCJS are very appreciative of the dedication to the program by our assessors and their respective Chief Executive Officers who allow them the time to contribute to our program. Without their assistance, this program would not possess the strong reputation it has come to achieve in its 11-year history.

The Accreditation Center accomplished several initiatives this year. One major project was the release of the Sixth Edition Program Manual. This joint effort between VLEPSC and the Virginia Law Enforcement Accreditation

Coalition (VALEAC) produced a standards manual that is more clear and concise than any previous version. The accreditation manager will see a noticeable difference in how many of the standards are broken down and allow for more consistency in its application and on-site review.

Another important initiative was the introduction of the VLEPSC Implementation Guide. This new guide will provide agencies entering the program with a vast amount of information on how to prepare for initial assessment.

The final significant initiative that I will mention here is the launching of VLEPSC.ORG, a support website made available to each accreditation manager. There is a section of this report explaining this new website.

I wish everyone a safe and prosperous 2008!

*Gary M. Dillon,
VLEPSC Program Manager*

Special points of interest

- ❖ 65 agencies accredited
- ❖ 6th Edition Program Manual released
- ❖ VLEPSC.ORG Support
- ❖ 2008 Initiatives
- ❖ Retirements
- ❖ New Assessor Info

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Program Partners

The Virginia Law Enforcement Professional Standards Commission was formed in the early 1990's and consists of an Executive Board appointed by the Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police and the Virginia Sheriffs' Association. Personnel from the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services provide support services to the Board, and serve as the coordinating agency for Commission activities to fulfill the agency's mandate under the *Virginia Code*.

The Board, all active chiefs or sheriffs, are tasked by their respective associations with developing

and maintaining a formal accreditation process specific to Virginia law enforcement agencies, including the development of a comprehensive set of professional standards. The VLEPSC program constitutes the first joint effort of this type in the history of the Commonwealth.

The Executive Board meets quarterly at various locations throughout Virginia to hear agency assessment reports, vote on accredited status, review accreditation standards and handle other program business. Attendance is open to the public.

Sixth Edition Program Manual

The sixth edition of the *VLEPSC Program Manual* was officially released in late 2007. This version contains 187 standards, as opposed to 180 from the fifth edition.

All agencies are given the option of complying with either the fifth or sixth edition during the year 2008. The manual becomes mandatory for all agencies on January 1, 2009. The Commission approved several new or revised standards dealing with:

- Use of force/Weapons;
- Property/Evidence Control;
- Internal Affairs;
- Community Relations;
- Line-of-Duty deaths;

- Communications;
- Records;
- Patrol/Traffic;
- Court Security;
- Commendations; and,
- Training

These additional standards will not be applicable to accredited agencies or agencies seeking accreditation until January 1, 2009.

The Commission and Accreditation Center extend their appreciation to the members of the VALEAC Standards Review Committee for their assistance in reviewing all of the standards and making their recommendations to the Commission.

Implementation Guide Published

In September, the Virginia Accreditation Center released the VLEPSC publication *Implementation Guide* that focuses on new agencies entering the accreditation process. The Implementation Guide, begun in early 2007 went through several drafts and received input from VALEAC as to what information needed to be captured to steer a new accreditation manager toward a successful accreditation assessment.

A follow-up to this publication, the *Guide to Maintaining Accreditation* is currently being drafted to serve the needs of agencies already accredited and working toward their reaccreditation.

The Accreditation Center hopes to have this project completed by summer 2008.

"A follow-up to this publication, the *Guide to Maintaining Accreditation* is currently being drafted"

VLEPSC.ORG—A Support Site for the Accreditation Manager

In June 2007, Accreditation Center Manager Gary Dillon attended a conference of state accreditation program managers in Milwaukee where he observed a demonstration of a software package that was being implemented by the Texas accreditation program. This software, which is fully customizable, was tested by program staff and found to be a good fit for Virginia's program. DCJS funded the acquisition of the yearly software license and purchase of the domain name VLEPSC.ORG.

All agencies who are currently accredited or have an Agency Application & Participation Agreement on file are given access to this site.

Some of the many exciting features of this package include:

- Downloads library
- Knowledgebase



- Live support
- Annual Compliance report submission
- Law Enforcement news

For more information on the Support Site, contact the *Accreditation Center* at 804-786-8421.

MOVING ON

The Commission would like to recognize Albemarle County Sheriff Ed Robb and Accomack County Sheriff Robert Crockett who retired on December 31, 2007. Both Sheriffs served on the Virginia Law Enforcement Professional Standards Commission from 2003-2007.

The Commission would also like to thank the following assessors who recently retired from their respective agencies or accepted other employment:

- Chief Gary Harmon (RET), Radford PD
- Major Mike Nicely (RET), Gloucester Co. SO
- Major Frank Horne (RET), Danville SO
- Joseph Bui, Fairfax Co. PD
- Deputy Troy Elder, Charlotte Co. SO
- Joe Berney, Radford University PD

The Commission and Accreditation Center staff wish you each the best in your new careers/retirement!

NEW ASSESSOR INFORMATION

Anyone wishing to become an Assessor for the VLEPSC is encouraged to contact the *Accreditation Center* and express your interest. You will be provided with an Assessor Application that must be signed by your agency CEO.

As the program continues to grow and our experienced assessors retire or move on, we find ourselves struggling to staff assessment teams during our peak times.

Many agencies seeking accreditation are looking for assessors to help out on mock assessments.

This is a great opportunity for those wanting to be an assessor to observe and/or participate in file review.

For more information in becoming a VLEPSC Assessor, contact the *Accreditation Center*.

“All agencies who are currently accredited or have an Agency Application & Participation Agreement on file are given access to this site”



Pulaski Chief Gary Roche from the VLEPSC Executive Board presents Chief Gary Harmon (Radford PD) with a plaque recognizing his many years as a Master Assessor.



Reaccreditation Assessments (1st)

Manassas Park PD
James City Co. PD
Chesterfield Co. SO
Page Co. SO
Augusta Co. SO
New Kent Co. SO
Accomack Co. SO
York-Poquoson SO
Bedford PD
King George SO
Stafford Co. SO

Reaccreditation Assessments (2nd)

Lexington PD
Martinsville PD
Danville PD
Henrico Dept. of Police
Chesterfield Co. PD
Stafford Co. SO

Accreditations

In 2007, the Commission welcomed the following six agencies:



Brunswick Co. Sheriff's Office
Sheriff (Ret.) James Woodley
Acc. Mgr. Major Brian Roberts



Charlotte Co. Sheriff's Office
Sheriff Thomas D. Jones
Acc. Mgr. Troy Elder



Pittsylvania Co. Sheriff's Office
Sheriff (Ret.) Grover H. Plaster
Acc. Mgr. Sgt. Scott Campbell



City of Bristol Sheriff's Office
Sheriff Jack Weisenberger
Acc. Mgr. Major Dave Maples



Warren Co. Sheriff's Office
Sheriff Daniel T. McEathron
Acc. Mgr. Sgt. Troy Imler



Warrenton Police Department
Chief Connie Novak
Acc. Mgr. Walter Putnam



VALEAC

The Virginia Law Enforcement Accreditation Coalition (VALEAC) recognizes and supports the concept of accreditation for law enforcement agencies as a means to enhance the quality of services throughout the Commonwealth

of Virginia. VALEAC provides a network for member agencies that will encourage communication, mutual cooperation, support and sharing of resources. For membership information, contact Lt. Shawn Kimmitz at 540-658-4432.

2007 Executive Board Award Recipient—Lt. Wayne Garrett

On April 12, 2007, longtime assessor and law enforcement professional, Lt. Wayne Garrett (Chesterfield Co. Sheriff's Office), was honored by the VLEPSC Executive Board as the 2007 recipient of the distinguished Executive Board Award.

Wayne has been involved with the accreditation program for many years both as an Accreditation Manager and highly respected Assessor.

Wayne began his career in 1964 at the Richmond City Police Department as a patrolman.

From 1967–1999, Wayne was employed by the Department of State Police as a trooper and retired as the Director of the Bureau of Criminal Investigations.

After retiring from the State Police in 2000, Wayne went to work for the Chesterfield County Sheriff's Office where he is the Lieutenant in the Office of Professional Standards overseeing VLEPSC accreditation.

Wayne has participated in numerous mock and official assessments and has attended all annual VALEAC conferences since 2001, contributing as a presenter for many of them. Wayne currently serves on the Standards Review Committee.

The Executive Board award was created to recognize those in the accreditation community whose leadership and contributions to the program help achieve the Commission's commitment to excellence in law enforcement.



Lt. Wayne Garrett receives the 2007 Executive Board Award from VLEPSC Chairman Sheriff Charles E. Jett.

New Applications Received

In July 2007, the VLEPSC replaced the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Agency Application & Participation Agreement. This new application package is required for every agency in the self-assessment phase. This list currently includes:

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Amherst Co. SO | 16. Petersburg SO |
| 2. Chesapeake SO | 17. Petersburg PD |
| 3. Essex Co. SO | 18. Poquoson PD |
| 4. Fairfax Co. SO | 19. Portsmouth PD |
| 5. Ferrum College PD | 20. Prince Edward Co. SO |
| 6. Haymarket PD | 21. Prince George Co. SO |
| 7. Isle of Wight Co. SO | 22. Purcellville PD |
| 8. King William Co. SO | 23. Tazewell Co. SO |
| 9. Lancaster Co. SO | 24. Virginia Capitol PD |
| 10. Louisa Co. SO | 25. Va. Commonwealth University PD |
| 11. Martinsville SO | 26. Va. Dept. of Game & Inland Fisheries |
| 12. Mecklenburg Co. SO | 27. Waynesboro PD |
| 13. Metro-Washington Airport Authority | 28. Williamsburg-James City Co. SO |
| 14. Norfolk PD | 29. Winchester PD |
| 15. Norfolk State University PD | 30. Wintergreen PD |

We're on the Web!
www.vlepsc.org



Norfolk SO Assessment Team with George Bell, the "world's tallest Deputy." At 7'8", he is also recognized by Guinness World Records as the tallest man in the United States.



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